

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 is cancelled.

Claim 2 is cancelled.

Claim 3 is cancelled.

Claim 4 is cancelled.

Claim 5 is cancelled.

Claim 6 is cancelled.

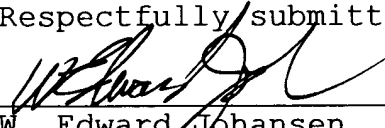
7. Hafnium carbide containing ceramic fiber derived from a pre-ceramic polymer formed by a process comprising the steps of:

- a. melting a hafnium containing pre-ceramic polymer;
- b. extruding said polymer through an orifice to form fiber;
- c. cross-linking said fiber; and
- d. heating said cross-linked fiber under controlled atmospheric conditions at a temperature greater than 600 degrees centigrade to obtain a hafnium carbide containing ceramic fiber.

8. (As amended) A ceramic fiber is a hafnium carbide derived from a pre-ceramic polymer according to claim 7.

Dated: May 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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